

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-12 GAC-01

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 493

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 0058

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINTO, UK (NI) PINT, UK (NI)

SUBJECT: UNIONIST PARTY REACTION TO WHITE PAPER

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOLLOWING FAULKNER' S LEAD, UNIONIST PARTY COUNCIL VOTED YESTERDAY TO SEEK NEGOTIATION WITH WHITELAW ON BASIS OF WHITE PAPER. MOTION TO REJECT WHITE PAPER WAS DEFEATED, BUT NUMBER OF VOTES TO REJECT, PLUS ABSTAINERS, EXCEEDED NUMBER WHO OPPOSED MOTION. THUS PARTY POSITION IS BASED ON MINORITY OF ITS COUNCIL. POINTS TO BE NEGOTIATED RELATE TO ENDING TERRORISM AND FUTURE CONTROL OF POLICE, DEFINITION OF CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF NI, AND CLARIFICATION OF HOW POWER SHARING IN NEW EXECUTIVE WILL BE CARRIED OUT. CRAIG SAID IT CLEAR PARTY IS HOPELESSLY SPLIT, BUT DID NOT RESIGN FROM IT; HE, WITH OTHER LOYALIST GROUPS TO RIGHT OF FAULKNER, ARE MEETING TO FIGURE OUT NEW POSITION. FUTURE OF UNIONIST PARTY REMAINS CLOUDED. IN ADDITION TO DEEP SPLIT, NUMERICALLY SPEAKING, IN PARTY, THERE MAY NOT BE MUCH ROOM FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN WHITE PAPER PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

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1. VOTES AT MARCH 27 MEETING OF UNIONIST COUNCIL --
710 MEMBERS OF 900- ODD TOTAL WERE PRESENT --

SHOWED PARTY AS BADLY SPLIT ON WHITE PAPER. ON MOTION TO REJECT IT, 348 VOTED AGAINST, 231 VOTED FOR AND 131 ABSTAINED. THMENTS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE SOVIET UNION TO BERLIN. THE HOPE WAS EXPRESSED BY BRANDT THAT THIS PROBLEM COULD BE SETTLED BEFORE BREZHNEV' S VISIT TO BONN. WHILE NO FIRM DATE WAS SET FOR THE VISIT, IT WAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT IT SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN MAY.

5. IN HIS RESPONSE, BREZHNEV DID NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THE CHANCELLOR' S COMMENT ON THE EXTENSION OF FRG- SOVIET AGREEMENTS TO BERLIN. BREZHNEV NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH SIDES HAD WORKED HARD TO ATTAIN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT EITHER SIDE WISHED TO JEOPARDIZE THAT AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD ASK HIS ASSOCIATES TO STUDY THE CHANCELLOR' S COMMENTS ON BERLIN BEFORE REPLYING FURTHER.

6. BREZHNEV CONCENTRATED ON BILATERAL MATTERS, EMPHASIZING THE DESIRABILITY OF LARGE- SCALE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. PROGRESS IN THIS AREA CONSTITUTED HIS MAIN EXPECTATION FROM FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHANCELLOR.

7. AMBASSADOR SAHM SURMISES THAT BREZHNEV WANTS SOMETHING CONCRETE TO RESULT FROM HIS VISIT TO THE FRG. SINCE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS WILL BE SIGNED, SAHM BELIEVES THAT BREZHNEV WILL PLACE EMPHASIS ON A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNIQUE SIMILAR TO THOSE SIGNED DURING THE VISITS OF PRESIDENTS NIXON AND POMPIDOU TO THE USSR. BREZHNEV MADE CLEAR THAT HE WANTS PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN MOSCOW " AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL." SAHM HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS REQUEST REFLECTED BREZHNEV' S DESIRE TO FOLLOW PREPARATIONS CLOSELY AND TO EXERCISE PERSONAL CONTROL OVER THE DETAILED PLANNING.

8. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS OF INTEREST MADE BY BREZHNEV. ALTHOUGH BREZHNEV DID NOT MENTION CSCE OR MBFR, BREZHNEV AT ONE POINT SAID HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO THE FREE EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE, INFORMATION AND IDEAS SO LONG AS THESE EXCHANGES WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE LAWS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES.
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BREZHNEV ADDED THAT THE FRG PURSUES SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC IDEALS WHILE THE SOVIET UNION ADHERES TO MARXISM. IT IS BEST, HE NOTED, IF THINGS ARE LEFT AS THEY ARE. NOBODY WOULD FORCE RUSSIAN ORTHODOXY ON OTHER PEOPLE. HE NOTED AT ANOTHER POINT THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS NO PROBLEM WITH THE FACT THAT THE FRG IS A MEMBER OF NATO AND AN ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES. " WE, OURSELVES, HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US," HE ADDED.

9. THE " GENERAL RELATIONS TREATY" WAS TOUCHED UPON ONLY BRIEFLY. BREZHNEV REFERRED TO A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH GDR PRIME MINISTER STOPH IN WHICH THE LATTER COMMENTED THAT THE PROGRESS ON

RATIFICATION OF THE GRT WAS RATHER SLOW. BREZHNEV EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE GRT WOULD " SOON BECOME VALID." BREZHNEV NOTED IN PASSING THAT THE GDR LEADERSHIP HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO HAVE BREZHNEV VISIT THE GDR SOON. (SAHM SPECULATED THAT BREZHNEV MIGHT

COMBINE HIS VISIT TO THE FRG WITH A VISIT TO THE GDR.)

10. DURING THE CONVERSATION, BREZHNEV SAID THAT HE WAS FED UP WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE MUNICH AGREEMENT. HE EXPECTED THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD BE SETTLED. (SAHM COMMENTED TO THE QUADRIPARTITE GROUP THAT BREZHNEV DID NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THE SUBSTANCE OF EITHER SIDE' S POSITION. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED FOR OUR BENEFIT THAT TALKS WITH THE CZECHS WOULD RESUME ON THE 12 TH OF APRIL IN BONN. BREZHNEV WAS ALREADY AWARE OF THIS FACT.)

11. IN THE RAMBLING TALK, BREZHNEV COMMENTED AT ONE JUNCTURE THAT THE DAY OF THE AUTOCRATIC RULER WAS OVER. PEOPLE NOW HAD LEADERS WHO HAD TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE OPINIONS OF THEIR CITIZENS. BREZHNEV MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF SAYING THAT HIS SPEECHES REFLECT THE VIEWS OF HIS PEOPLE. AT THE SAME TIME. HIS SPEECHES ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE UNDERSTANDING OF SOVIET CITIZENS OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS. (SAHM SPECULATED THAT BREZHNEV WANTED TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE THAT HIS SPEECHES SHOULD BE CAREFULLY READ.)

12. SAHM NOTED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY SOON BE DELIVERING ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR IN REPLY TO BREZHNEV' S LETTER WHICH WAS DELIVERED BY FALLIN. BREZHNEV SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE AMBASSADOR SAHM AGAIN. HE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AND WORKING IN OR OUTSIDE MOSCOW IN THE NEXT WEEK. (COMMENT: BREZHNEV' S RECENT RECEPTION OF FORMER FRENCH AMBASSADOR SEYDOUX, JAPANESE AMBASS-

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ADOR NIISEKI, AND NOW AMBASSADOR SAHM SUGGESTS A MORE ACTIVE PERSONAL ROLE IN SOVIET DIPLOMACY.)

13. SAHM NOTED THAT A SHORT ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS CALL ON BREZHNEV HAD BEEN PREPARED BEFOREHAND BY THE SOVIETS. ITS FRIENDLY TONE LED SAHM TO CONCLUDE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ALREADY IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING UP BREZHNEV' S VISIT TO THE FRG. AS A POINT OF MINOR INTEREST, THE DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CALL INDICATED THAT A LETTER HAD BEEN DELIVERED FROM CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND HEAD OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. BREZHNEV, HIMSELF, SUGGESTED THAT THE REFERENCE TO BRANDT' S PARTY POSITION BE DELETED, TO WHICH SAHM READILY AGREED.

14. SAHM SAID BREZHNEV WAS IN GOOD FORM, JOKED FREQUENTLY AND EVEN REMINISCED A BIT OF HIS CHILDHOOD DAYS.
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